



First Steps Facilitator: Becky Taggart, representing 27 counties

Regional LICC status: One New LICC developed

Active LICCs: 11 active LICCs incorporating 21 counties

Inactive LICCs: 1 inactive LICCs incorporating 2 counties (Newton & McDonald)

LICCs in development: 4 counties out of 27 not represented (Douglas, Ozark, Texas, and Wright)

Primary Outcomes of LICCs:

1. Increase public awareness of the program and the contact point/SPOE by working with Parents as Teachers
2. Establishing a well-functioning Child Find system
3. Increasing the number of providers to meet the needs of families and allow choices for families
4. Recruiting members and increasing the consistency of attending LICC membership with members from a variety of backgrounds, especially parents of children with disabilities
5. Locating community resources

Summary of activities and accomplishments:

The LICCs continue to work on the outcomes selected by their membership as outlined above. SPOE staff are now attending most LICC meetings to provide information on the number of referrals and the number of children in the program.

- Barry/Lawrence LICC ~ **Printing a list of red flags/milestones for parents/caregivers/teachers.** May laminate this to provide to doctor's waiting rooms. Also **printing sippy cups with First Steps phone number** to distribute at Baby Affair in April. Planning a **workshop for child care providers in Barry county.**
- Benton/Henry/St. Clair LICC ~ Shared a list of addresses for legislators and encouraged everyone to write them regarding funding/problems. Spent a good deal of time talking about provider problems-lack of PT's in the area and substituting other services such as special instructors.
- Camden/Laclede LICC ~ **Laclede county newspaper will print article on FS**, and contacting Camden paper. Developed list of where to place FS brochures in the community, and discussed transition into ECSE.
- Dade/Barton LICC ~ **Contacted area newspaper asking them to print our LICC meeting information in their community calendars, provided area newspaper information so they would be able to run a public service announcement about First Steps, distributed First Steps general information, LICC, and provider recruitment brochures to area health departments, Family Support and Children's Services Divisions, libraries, and other area businesses and organizations.**
- Dallas LICC ~ Held first meeting. Attending community meeting next month to invite them to next LICC meeting.
- Tri-Lakes First Steps Coordination Council (Cedar, Polk, and Hickory) ~ **Solicited donation and plan to use it for advertising FS in area newsletter.**
- Greene/Christian LICC ~ **Participated in Baby Affair with expected attendance of 1300 and Wellness Fair in Greene county.** Pursuing funding for LICC activities.
- Jasper LICC ~ **Created a Parent Pack for parents who attend the LICC;** plan to show this packet of information to our members at the next meeting; obtained a copy of the developmental chart used by Dade County LICC for hospital bags and plan to use this chart to share information about First Steps with families; **created LICC flyers and placed them at the First Steps booth at the Family Fun Fair** held at the Northpark Mall on 2/28/04 in hopes of recruiting parents and other community members.
- Phelps/Pulaski LICC ~ See SE facilitator's report.
- Children's Resource Connections (Stone & Taney) ~ **Pamphlets have been distributed in the Skagg's Hospital baby bags that are sent home with new mothers and the Hispanic churches have received pamphlets in the Hispanic format. A representative distributed information at the Cox Baby Fair in Springfield.**
- Texas County ~ TEAM planning an open house in March to increase community awareness of resources.
- Webster LICC ~ Discussed participating in Play Day this spring with Webster County Child Care Coalition.

Summary of identified needs or concerns:

Barry/Lawrence

- An area agency is willing to hire to meet the needs of First Steps, but **lack of mileage reimbursement** prohibits them from doing this from a business perspective as they lose money.

Barton/Dade:

- We are having difficulties in **finding parents** who are interested in becoming LICC members,
- we need to find ways to help **identify children with special needs earlier** so they can transition into our early children special education (ECSE) programs instead of being identified by our ECSE programs, and we need more providers in our area.

Jasper:

- We are concerned about the **proposed changes to Service Coordination** with the new contract bids.
- We also are concerned that the changes to the contracts regarding SPOE's and service providers with the new bids coming up, might be **a regression back to the former process which wasn't working well.**
- We have concerns about **no established LICC's in nearby Newton and McDonald** counties. We have hosted a meeting for community members from those counties at one of our meetings, however, no one has taken the lead to get the LICC's going in those areas. Our First Steps Facilitator reports that the percentage of children being served in these 2 counties is very low. Many of us currently on the Jasper County LICC also serve families in these 2 counties and have begun problem solving ways to assist those in learning more about First Steps and the services available to families.

Stone/Taney:

- There is a strong concern in this area about the **low number of referrals** and
- The large **decline in enrolled families** in this area, possibly due to the SPOE not having a toll-free number.
- **Provider choice is still limited but improving.**

At LICC meetings SPOEs 12, 13, 17 & 18 have all reported a need for additional providers of SPP, OT, PT, nursing services, counseling and psychologists to do evaluations.

Key Points to provide the SICC:

1. Dade/Barton: We continue to get the word out about the First Steps program. Our area agencies and businesses seem interested in learning about the program and are willing to display brochures.
2. Jasper: We are very close to establishing a support group for service providers in our area. We believe there is a great need and have encouraged the providers to meet.
3. Jasper: Our LICC believes it will be very important to continue to receive updates from our First Steps Facilitator and SPOE regarding the contract changes that are coming.
4. Jasper: Our LICC and SPOE staff are planning to target the WIC offices in our area to educate the staff at WIC on First Steps and in hopes of obtaining referrals. We currently have received no referrals from WIC.
5. Stone/Taney: Significant concern with how the changes in the SPOE bids that will come in the future will affect service delivery.